



Report on Community Emergency Preparedness
In the 26th Congressional District

Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey

June 2002

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In the wake of the tragic events of September 11th, our nation and communities are grappling with how to better prepare for emergency incidents that we have not had to face in the past. Our federal government is recognizing its role in providing resources to our communities to assist in emergency preparation and management. I believe that in order for these efforts to be successful, we must take a "bottom up" approach, rooted in the needs and suggestions of the local agencies that will be the first responders in a time of crisis.

Late last year, hundreds of individuals participated in meetings that I organized across the 26th Congressional District in New York, which brought together municipal leaders and emergency response officials to discuss the status of emergency preparedness. Many needs were identified in these meetings, **particularly the need for special equipment, proper training, and better communications systems.** Congress has allocated some resources toward such preparations. My proposed legislation, H.R. 3161, the Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act, would expand these funds. As evidenced by this report, the federal government needs to supply more resources to assist local communities and, as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am committed to securing those resources.

In that regard, I have followed up on these meetings by distributing a questionnaire regarding the status of current emergency preparedness as well as community needs. I have organized the information collected from this survey in order to accurately report and assess our communities' needs to my congressional colleagues. I am grateful to the many civic officials who took the time to participate in community meetings and respond to my survey so that we can have a more complete picture of the needs in our region.

I will continue to work to ensure that communities and local first responders are given the tools they need to deal with emergency situations by the federal government.

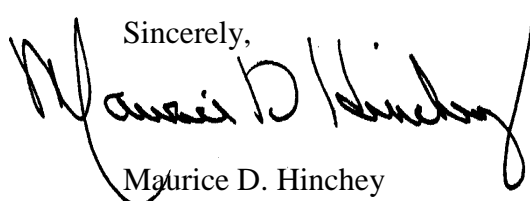
Sincerely,

Maurice D. Hinchey

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	4
Assessment of Current Emergency Services	5
Community Needs	6
How Communities Are Working to Meet Needs And What is the Cost?	9
What Role Should the Federal Government Play	12
Conclusion	13
Appendix	
- Compiled Results from Survey Questions	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In attempting to assess the needs of local first responder agencies and planners, I sponsored a series of meetings, including two large public forums. One was held in Kingston on November 2, 2001 and another in Binghamton on November 19, 2001. Several hundred people attended these meetings, including municipal and county leaders, fire chiefs, local law enforcement officials, hospital administrators, EMS volunteers, and emergency agency officials. **The input from these meetings indicated that agencies and first responders were very concerned about having adequate resources to deal with future emergencies.**

A detailed, nine-question survey was then sent out to nearly two hundred municipal and county leaders, emergency response workers and emergency management personnel asking them to compile information regarding emergency preparedness. The results largely echoed and elaborated on the information that came out of the public forums. Local hospitals and health professionals were also asked to detail their needs for emergency preparedness.

Overwhelmingly, the result of the meetings, letters and survey was that the communities felt that the federal government has a critical role to play in helping first responders prepare and plan for natural and terrorist disasters. **A large majority of responses and input mentioned the needs for improved training, better communications equipment, resources and incentives for maintaining and recruiting both paid and volunteer staff, and specialized equipment and training for special circumstances, including nuclear, chemical, and/or biological attack.** Funding for these needs was identified as paramount to ensuring emergency preparedness in our communities.

Most communities indicated that they had comprehensive plans in place to deal with emergencies, although a few are in the process of developing such plans. Many are struggling with declining volunteer ranks and tight budget constraints while trying to adapt and plan in light of a changed national landscape in terms of emergency preparedness.

The federal government needs to assist local governments and agencies and strengthen their ability to deal with a variety of emergency situations. Community resources, like public health and emergency services infrastructure, need adequate resources so that our country is prepared for emergency situations in the future. The new demands being placed on first responders must be matched with a commitment for resources from the federal government if we are truly serious about effectively responding to the challenges we will face.

ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT EMERGENCY SERVICES

Communities were first asked whether they had developed a comprehensive plan to deal with all types of emergencies. Ninety-three percent of the respondents indicated that their community had such a plan in place or that they were in the process of amending or developing one. Only two respondents said that they did not have a plan to manage all types of emergencies. Comments from the public forums indicate that many of these plans have been developed to deal with more common events, i.e. flooding and snow emergencies, and may need some reevaluation in light of new possible threats to our communities.

The survey also asked local governments and agencies to rate the coordination of emergency services in their community. The results were positive. More than one-half of respondents classified their coordination as very good, well coordinated, or good. Another one-third rated this coordination as excellent. Four communities answered fair, functional, or "getting better" to this question. Several respondents highlighted the good current cooperation and communication between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) and local agencies. One respondent noted that they believed the current coordination to be excellent, but that it needs to be tested or exercised to confirm its efficacy.

When queried what is the most common type of emergency response situation, most respondents provided more than one answer. Accidents, fires, and weather-related events topped the list. Two-thirds of those surveyed said that storm related emergencies (snow, ice, wind) and flooding were the most common emergency to which they responded. Forty-four percent of those surveyed listed fires. Vehicle accidents and vehicle fires were identified in thirty percent of answers. Hazardous materials (HAZMAT) events and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls were both listed by slightly less than twenty percent of the completed surveys. Other emergency situations included domestic violence, alarm responses, power outages, and gas leaks. One health agency responded that communicable disease outbreaks were their most common issues to confront.

The distributed surveys also asked which agencies coordinated response services in each community. Nearly forty percent listed local police and fire departments in association with a variety of other agencies and organizations, including EMS/ Ambulance, town government officials, highway department, and county officials. Many communities also noted that the county emergency services or Emergency Management Office (EMO) worked to coordinate responses, along with local departments.

Other answers to this question included on-scene coordination, FEMA and Fire Coordinators, Fire and EMS coordinators, city fire department, sheriff, health department, and large private companies and agencies.

While there is clearly a sense that emergency response is currently adequate or better in most cases, communities did identify a number of critical needs. Many felt there are gaps in their current service or areas that could use improvement, particularly in consideration of new threats with which first responders may need to deal.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Local leaders were asked to identify the most pressing need or needs for emergency preparedness in their community. **Training, equipment, and personnel issues were consistently cited as the areas of greatest need.** Improved planning and increased resources for responding to emergencies were also listed, in addition to improving information resources to local governments and agencies.

Training

Training was the most frequently cited need by local communities. Thirty-seven percent of survey respondents raised issues with training needs, including for a variety of special circumstances. One respondent included training for rescue in confined spaces, such as collapsed buildings.

Many communities were concerned about having adequate training for incidents involving biological, nuclear, and chemical materials, including HAZMAT situations, as well as weapons of mass destruction. These circumstances require specialized equipment, as well as training for using it properly, which many communities are unable to pay for out of local budgets. Some communities indicated their desire to have coordinated exercises and training, including public health training, between the various levels of government and amongst the various response agencies. One respondent suggested implementation of a mandatory and standardized training program through the counties. Several of the county officials who responded cited the need for additional training, but also noted that they will need additional resources to expand their training efforts. The need for an outdoor training facility combining units throughout the county was also raised at one of the public forums.

Individual and family preparation was also mentioned, which ties into the need for increased information resources. Exercises used to test preparedness might include residents to maximize the effectiveness of planning and response preparation. This information might also include public health information on contagious diseases.

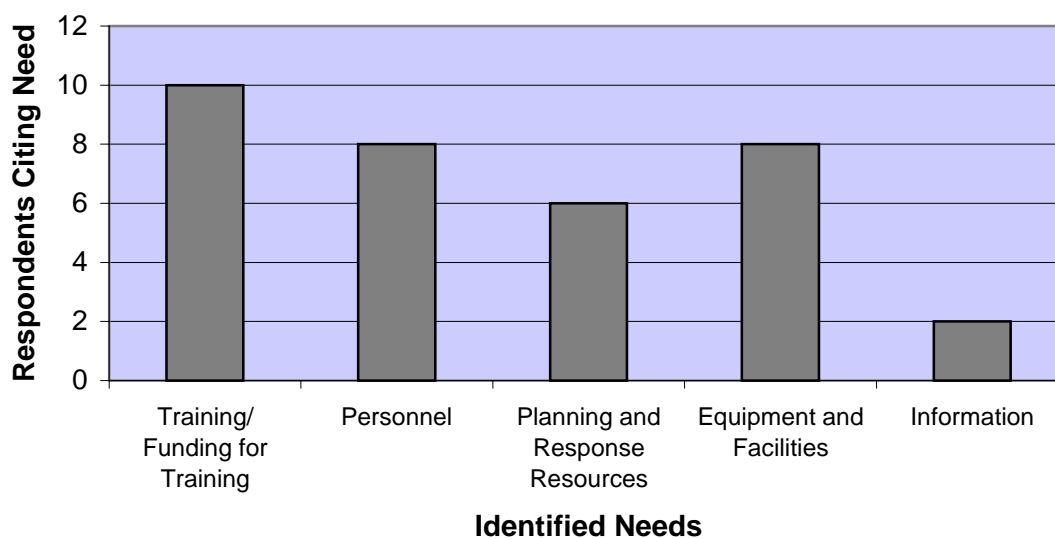
Training was also a significant component of the assessments done by local hospitals. Decontamination and quarantine procedures (and equipment) were highlighted by a number of public health officials and hospital administrators as necessary to limiting damage inflicted in chemical, nuclear or biological emergency incidents. Several respondents suggested preparing parameters for dealing with such events and then making training available to staff. The idea of using a video training product produced by the federal or state government was raised, which would help to standardize responses in the field. Drills and exercises also may need to be implemented to ensure that staff is prepared and trained adequately in newly developed procedures and with new equipment.

Personnel Resources

Another prominent need listed in survey responses and raised during the public forums on this issue was the need for personnel. Nearly thirty percent of respondents included personnel needs in their assessments. Many communities in the 26th District rely entirely or partially on volunteer staffing for critical services including fire protection and EMS. As most people are aware, volunteer ranks have been dwindling in communities throughout the country. One local fire chief summed up the situation by stating, "The volunteer departments are experiencing crippling recruitment problems."

Communities are very concerned about their ability to respond to emergency situations, including terrorist attacks, with decreasing volunteer ranks. Having on-duty and on-call individuals is critical to timely response to catastrophes. Emergency response agencies and organizations also need staff for planning and training, but this role usually falls on active volunteers. Several respondents cited the need for a part-time staff person to coordinate these activities, thereby freeing up volunteer staff from this additional time commitment.

Emergency Preparedness Needs Survey Results



Equipment and Facilities

Another thirty percent of survey respondents identified the need for equipment. Two organizations specifically mentioned the need for an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) from which to coordinate future emergency events. The EOC would presumably have alternative communications systems (911 cell access suggested) and independent power sources.

The need for protective clothing and equipment was mentioned by a number of communities, as awareness has grown of possible threats from nuclear, biological and chemical accidents or terrorist events. Many first responder organizations do not have protective clothing necessary to protect their staff and members from exposure to such hazards during an emergency.

response. This specialized equipment is often expensive and therefore, unavailable to local communities with limited emergency response budgets. Forum participants noted that they needed equipment "relevant" to terrorist attacks and in some cases were using equipment that was "outdated and minimal." Several hospitals mentioned equipment, such as decontamination showers and ventilators, was needed to respond to catastrophes.

Communication equipment needs were also frequently included in this assessment and were discussed at public forums in Kingston and Binghamton. These needs included computers, phones, and radios, as well as communications systems for an EOC or mobile command vehicle. Finally, the need for a long-term plan for maintaining equipment was cited at the public forums.

Improved Planning and Increased Resources for Emergency Response

Survey respondents listed a number of needs that fit loosely into a category for planning and response resources. These included broader needs, such as better coordination of resources and preparation for natural disasters and terrorist events, which again overlap with training and personnel as well. One municipality also sought better interstate planning for towns bordering adjacent states, with which they often find themselves working in emergency situations.

Several communities specifically mentioned the need for resources to deal with bioterrorism and nuclear, chemical, and biological emergencies. Some also wanted better identification of possible HAZMAT sources and/or possible terrorist targets in the geographic areas that they serve. This would allow local governments to better plan for actual scenarios they might have to face at some time in the future. Local agencies could work to map these sources and prepare specific response action in case of an emergency event.

Improvements to the public health system were mentioned, as was the need to prepare and plan for incidences of serious violence at our communities' schools.

Information Resources

Although only two survey respondents mentioned this in their needs assessment, participants at the public meetings as well as hospitals specified their desire for better and more timely information. Clear directives from reliable state and federal authorities were mentioned, in addition to improved public information. This included information for preparation and planning for possible emergency events as well as during response efforts. Specifically noted as well was the need for access to the New York Statewide Police Information Network (NYSPIN) to aid local law enforcement.

HOW ARE COMMUNITIES WORKING TO MEET NEEDS AND WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST?

Participants in the survey were asked several questions pertaining to meeting their needs. First, how are they currently working to meet the needs identified in the survey? Second, what resources do they need to better respond to emergencies? In most cases, these answers restated the earlier assessment of needs that this section will not list again. In cases where specific or different needs are mentioned, these have been included below. Finally, what are the estimated costs of meeting the identified needs? Some respondents were unable to provide these estimates without further research.

Overall, cost estimates averaged \$3,708,333 for counties and \$38,140 for local governments and agencies. The hospital association in the Hudson Valley has also estimated that the costs for emergency preparedness upgrades for hospitals will be \$2,872,000 for larger urban hospitals and \$1,401,000 for smaller rural hospitals. Most hospitals in the 26th District fall into the later category or just above, one of which provided an estimate totaling \$1,852,000.

Training

The survey brought to light the ways in which communities are trying to meet their training needs. This included using some current state and federal resources that are available, evaluating and planning for expanded training, and looking for flexibility in local budgets to cover training costs. It also highlighted a significant number of cases in which training needs are not being met or only partially being met due to fiscal and staff limitations.

Several communities have committee or agency heads evaluating training options in the wake of the September 11 attacks. Several mentioned their participation in trainings, including those sponsored by the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control, HAZMAT training through the state, and U.S. Department of Justice sponsored Nuclear, Biological and Chemical/ Weapons of Mass Destruction training.

Many communities were also looking to the counties to take a lead in training, although it did not seem to be occurring consistently. Local trainings were also being offered in a few cases. In one case, local officials were attempting to save money by sending only one officer for training, than relying on that officer to train other staff.

Funding for training is clearly a priority for many communities. Respondents gave several estimates for training:

- \$55,000
- \$50,000 with equipment
- \$20,000 with communications improvements
- \$250,000 at smaller hospitals
- \$500,000 at larger hospitals

Personnel

The communities surveyed and participants at public forums highlighted that communities are currently struggling most with meeting personnel needs. As mentioned previously, volunteer ranks have declined in many communities, as people's schedules have become tighter and new regulations have increased training requirements for emergency volunteers. While one or two local communities were looking at possible incentives for volunteers, most looked to other levels of government for assistance with this issue, which was raised frequently. Respondents reiterated the need for planning and training staff, public health staffing, part-time emergency planners and HAZMAT trained and equipped personnel.

One county estimated that a countywide volunteer incentive program would cost approximately \$300,000 annually. Other estimates include:

- \$100-125,000 for personnel and vehicles
- \$64,000 annually for a firefighter first class, including benefits
- \$8 million to maintain current department staffing (not included in tallied averages)

Equipment and Facilities

Local governments were grappling mostly with equipment needs, while county governments were focussed on larger projects, including an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and countywide communication upgrades. A few counties have had preliminary investigations into constructing an EOC. One initial estimate for this was \$5-10 million. The countywide communications upgrade was estimated to be \$10 million, and two estimates for planning and equipment were \$3.5 million and \$500,000. One respondent gave an estimate of \$450,000 for countywide public health staffing and funding, training and education, and improved communications and information systems.

Local governments and agencies were seeking funding for equipment, further examining their needs, or holding off on acquiring needed equipment due to lack of funding. Most estimates provided in the survey were for specific equipment, such as the following:

- \$13, 600 for emergency bedding and blankets; 4 portable radios; digital camera and VCR
- \$25-30,000 for communication equipment
- \$20-25,000 for communication equipment
- \$30-60,000 for weapons of mass destruction/ nuclear, biological, and chemical detection equipment and protective equipment
- \$15-20,000 for decontamination equipment
- \$30,000 for communication and personal protective equipment; vehicle
- \$5000 for air monitoring equipment

In addition to communication and personal protective equipment, other needs were identified such as: generators; detection and testing equipment for HAZMAT events; better public health resources (local laboratory capacity for testing, pre-event immunization of first responders, improved hospital capacity); improved computer capability and data management; and response vehicles.

The hospital association and one local hospital also provided estimates for equipment and other resources to respond to terrorist attacks in a separate letter (not included in the survey averages). These estimates are as follows:

- \$37,500 for communications and notification equipment
- \$375,000 for detection equipment, monitors and testing devices and other resources to identify, accurately diagnose, report, track, and treat chemical, biological or radiological agents.
- \$178,000 for protective equipment
- \$140,000 for personal protective equipment
- \$144,000 for security improvements
- \$150,000 for additional isolation rooms
- \$95,000 for HVAC modifications
- \$300,000 for dedicated decontamination facilities
- \$250,000 for decontamination facilities, portable units for use in parking areas, waste water containment, portable generators, and portable lighting units
- \$37,500 for water purification equipment, patient isolation facilities, separate air handling systems, and expanded space for stockpiling
- \$250,000 for training and drills
- \$300,000 for pharmaceuticals and medical supplies
- \$11,000 for mental health resources per day

Additionally, the local hospital estimated that \$250,000 would be required annually for recurrent emergency readiness costs. A second hospital reported its need for many of the same items in addition to ventilators, a phone system with generator back up and decontamination shower with direct access from the outside. No estimate was given for these items.

Improved Planning and Increased Resources for Emergency Response

Communities seem to be working to put in place planning necessary to deal with new threats. Some are conducting departmental meetings or updating their comprehensive emergency plans to deal with planning for a variety of threats (including school violence), better coordination between agencies, public health system improvements and identification of potential hazards or terrorist targets in their municipalities. One respondent noted that they are establishing a HAZMAT response team, while another mentioned that they are awaiting NYS approval for intrastate planning with towns in adjacent states.

Respondents also detailed their need for better interagency communications, and mapping of possible HAZMAT threats, along with one request to provide layouts for public buildings and schools to emergency responders. No estimates were provided specifically for planning.

Information Resources

At this time, one community was examining community disaster education for families and individuals. Many others are hoping that state and federal information is forthcoming. The law enforcement department without the NYSPIN system does not currently have funding for this, estimated at \$7000.

WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLAY?

The results from the survey overwhelmingly support an increased federal role to ensure local emergency preparedness, with all respondents identifying one or more roles the federal government should play. The public forums also highlighted interest in the federal government taking a more active role in regards to funding, training, providing local government and agencies with information and providing resources to counties to better coordinate local efforts.

Funding is clearly the most pressing issue for first responders and local governments and was mentioned as a role for the federal government in fifty-nine percent of responses. An additional fifteen percent sought provision of equipment to local agencies. Direct training by the federal government and coordination of planning was also listed as a potential role or expanded role. Specifically mentioned was the need to provide local governments with funding for emergency prevention and recovery efforts, particularly assistance with overtime costs and replacement of damaged equipment resulting from severe emergency situations. Several respondents also highlighted the federal funding role for county efforts.

Several respondents focused on ways the federal government could encourage volunteers to join and remain in local emergency service departments. These included providing tax credits to volunteers as an incentive for serving their communities. Protecting the jobs of volunteers who take off time from work for emergency training was also brought up in the survey.

Providing equipment was consistently referenced as a role for the federal government as well. Proposals were made in several surveys, such as providing Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) that would be allocated specifically for emergency management facilities and equipment. Other ideas related to this are for the federal government to provide funding to firefighters in a manner similar to the U.S. Department of Justice programs for law enforcement agencies or to increase training and equipment funding opportunities through FEMA and SEMO. The types of equipment mentioned most were communications and personal protective gear. Joint procurement by the federal government for local agencies was also listed as a possible way of saving money on equipment.

Communities also sought other planning and response resources. These include technical support, standardized guidelines for certain emergencies (and funding to implement), and development of a generic plan, which can then be customized to fit the needs of individual counties. Several respondents suggested the federal government take a lead role with state and local governments to ensure comprehensive planning and preparation. Instituting a regional approach to emergency first response was also suggested as a role.

Finally, participants at the public forums and survey respondents stressed the federal government's role in keeping municipal and county leaders informed on developing situations. Many believed that this had not been handled well in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks and were frustrated that they learned of potential threats predominantly through the media, rather than from a specified and credible government source. Community leaders wanted better guidance from federal authorities on what actions they should take. One suggestion is to set up a

secure Intranet site through which municipalities can access a daily update from FEMA or other appropriate agencies, as well as bulletins and alerts. The need for a unified multi-layer government alert system was raised. Finally, public health officials mentioned the need for disease awareness information to be disseminated and mentioned schools as a potential starting point.

CONCLUSION

In the process of conducting emergency preparedness meetings last autumn in the Hudson Valley and Southern Tier, discussing needs with local leaders one-on-one, and compiling data from the survey sent to community leaders, I believe a clear picture has emerged highlighting gaps in our current emergency response systems. My intention has been to collect information through a "bottom-up" approach that gives us an accurate assessment for the needs of our communities. I commend all of those who attended meetings and took time to return these surveys and thank you for your critical input.

It is clear that many local agencies are not fully prepared to deal with threats that may not have seemed possible before the tragic events of September 11 and the subsequent anthrax attacks. Meeting this challenge is difficult for local governments at a time when local budgets are already strained and volunteer ranks are not keeping pace with growth in demands for services. The federal government has an important role to play in supporting our local agencies that will most likely be the first ones responding to emergencies we will face in the future. Protecting our communities must include providing the resources necessary to ensure that our fire departments, police, EMS, public health officials, hospitals, local governments, and county emergency staff can do their jobs without compromising the health and safety of our first responders or our communities.

The federal government needs to provide municipalities with the tools they need to prepare for and respond to catastrophes, including terrorism. I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 3161, the Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act, which would help provide communities with the resources to effectively manage emergency situations, but that legislation has not yet been actively considered by the House of Representatives.

In the meantime, federal agencies have begun to address the needs of our municipalities, but much more needs to be done. Requirements for local matches for equipment and other funding should be waived, as local communities should not have to wait and save for equipment needed immediately. Substantial increases in funding for strategic preparedness planning should be allocated to ensure our resources are coordinated and response planning is in place. We must also guarantee that most of the new federal funding goes directly to local communities.

I have also introduced H.R. 3724, which provides emergency service volunteers with a \$1000 federal tax credit. The survey results suggest that one of the greatest needs we face in our communities is maintaining volunteer ranks in our fire and EMS departments. Most local governments cannot afford to pay for professional emergency services, and it is critical that the federal government provide support for our emergency volunteers. This tax credit is one way we can start to appreciate the vital role played by our volunteers, the time that they commit to their communities, and the risks that they face in protecting and assisting others.

I will continue to work to ensure that our communities are prepared for future catastrophes and that the federal government provides local emergency responders and organization with the tools they need to deal effectively with emergency situations.

APPENDIX:

Compiled Results from Survey

Question 1:

Does your community have a comprehensive plan in place to deal with all types of emergencies?

Yes (22)

- In process of being updated (1)
- Partial plan only (1)

No (5)

- Currently developing (3)

Question 2:

What would you identify as the most pressing need(s) for emergency preparedness in your community?

Increased training and funding for training (10)

- Specifically for biological, nuclear and/or chemical materials (HAZMAT) (3)
- Increased and continued funding for weapons of mass destruction threats (2)
- Training- standardized, mandatory and controlled by county
- Public health training and resources (2)
- Individual and family preparation for emergency events (2)
- Multi-jurisdictional/ multi-agency training and exercises (2)
- Training (and equipment) for confined spaces, i.e. building collapse

Personnel resources (8)

- Recruiting and retaining volunteers (4)
- On-duty first responders
- Funding for emergency preparedness staff- part-time (2)
- Increased public health staffing

Improved planning and increase of resources for response to emergencies (6)

- Interstate planning for towns bordering adjacent states
- Coordination of resources
- Identify Hazardous Materials/ possible terrorist targets in area (2)
- Prepare for local school emergency (violence)
- More resources to deal with bioterrorism and nuclear, chemical ,biological emergencies (2)
- Prepare for natural disasters and terrorist events
- Public Health System improvements

Equipment and Facilities (8)

- Mentioned 911 cell access in EOC
- Specified need for more computers and phones (2)
- Communication equipment (3)
- Additional equipment (unspecified)
- Protective clothing and equipment (2)
- HAZMAT equipment
- Alternative communication system
- Equipment to deal with chemical, biological, nuclear threats

Improved information (2)

- Access to reliable State and Federal Directives; NYSPIN system
- Improved public information

Question 3:

How are you currently planning to address that need?

Increased training and funding for training

- Evaluating training at local level
- County needs to coordinate HAZMAT training; not currently happening
- Collapsed building training and resources not being addressed
- Attempting to squeeze in officer training through City budget
- Not currently being funded (2)
- State training for HAZMAT, but limited
- Only local training, not taken over by county
- Presentations offered through NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control
- For weapons of mass destruction training
- Committees working on strategic plan to deal with nuclear, biological, chemical threats
- Supporting county planning for bioterrorism threat
- Attending US DOJ sponsored NBC/WMD training

Personnel resources

- Currently no help with personnel
- Trying to establish incentives for volunteers
- Staffing affected by budget problems for on-duty first responders
- Trying to establish incentives for volunteers
- Funding for emergency preparedness staff- part-time being done volunteer; not enough

Improved planning and increase of resources for response to emergencies

- Currently awaiting NYS approval for interstate planning for border towns
- Emergency plan being updated to identify hazards in town
- Department meetings. Discussing possible threats/ hazards in town
- Developing comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for better coordination
- Currently preparing response to school violence
- Updating Terrorist Annex to Comprehensive Emergency Plan
- Health director coordinating community planning for public health system improvements
- Establishing regional HAZMAT response team

Equipment and Facilities

- County investigating EMO facility
- County needs to improve county-wide communication system
- Currently seeking funding for additional equipment
- Preliminary discussions starting concerning EM center
- Communication and protective equipment not currently being funded
- Not- no funding for communication equipment and/or, generators
- Examining communications needs

Question 3 (continued)

Information Resources

- Not addressing it; no funding for NYSPIN system
- Examining community disaster education for individuals/ families

Question 4:

How would you rate the coordination of emergency services in your community?

Excellent (9)

- But needs to be tested/ exercised

Very Good (3)

- Communication between agencies stressed

Well coordinated (3)

Good (8)

- But could use Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- Excellent cooperation
- Good, better than most. Work well with FEMA, SEMO, NYS

Fair (2)

- Functional, but not tested
- Getting better

Question 5:

What are the agencies in your community that coordinate response services?

Police and Fire (10)

- With Sheriff
- With EMS/ Ambulance (2)
- With EMS, coordinated through County
- With EMS and private company (IBM)
- With Town Supervisor, Highway, Volunteer EMS
- With EMS, Highway, Health Dept., Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
- With Executive Office
- With Supervisor, Highway Superintendent, Building Inspector, Flood Plain Coordinator

Emergency Management Office (EMO)/ County Emergency Services (9)

- With Fire Coordinator's Office
- With local volunteer firefighter companies

Fire and EMS Coordinator (2)

On-scene coordination

FEMA and Fire Coordinators

County Fire Disaster, EMS, Sheriffs, Health Dept, Red Cross

City Fire Dept is in charge, as per code. All other agencies and private institutions also involved

Office of Emergency Control

Local government, Fire, EMS, Town, School

Question 6:

What is the most common type of emergency to which you respond?

(Most respondents gave multiple answers)

Fires (12)

Storm related emergencies (10)

Floods (8)

Auto accidents and auto fires (8)

HAZMAT incidents (5)

EMS (5)

Domestic violence/ situations (2)

Rescue, unspecified (2)

Fire alarms

Gas leaks

Varies

Communicable disease outbreaks (County Health Department)

Natural disasters, unspecified

Property damage

Unhealthy/ unsafe conditions

Power Outages

Question 7:

What resources do you need to better respond to emergencies?

Training (8)

- Basic field training and education
- Funding for training
- More training in incident command

Personnel Resources (12)

- Volunteers and staffing resources (including tax credits for volunteers) (9)
- Increased public health staffing and funding
- HAZMAT trained and equipped staff
- Part time emergency manager
- Staff for training and planning

Planning and response resources (5)

- Better interagency communications
- Map potential hazards/ terrorist targets within municipality
- Provide layouts of public buildings and schools

Equipment and Facilities (Multiple requests in many cases)

- Communications upgrades/ communication systems and equipment, alternate communication systems, better radio equipment (9)
- Air monitoring equipment
- Confined space rescue equip
- Funding for equipment (unspecified)
- Emergency Operations Center (EMO)
- Bedding and blankets for 50; 4 Portable Radios; Digital camera and VCR
- Emergency generator (3)
- Vehicles outfitted with computers; Mobile command and response vehicles (3)
- Detection equipment for radiological materials
- Improved computer capability
- Personal protective equipment for first responders (4)
- Decontamination equipment (2)
- Monitoring equipment for Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Funding for HAZMAT response and equipment (2)
- Disease surveillance equipment.
- Enhanced data management capacity
- Better local laboratory capacity
- Pre-event immunization of first responders
- Improved hospital capacity; test equipment

Question 7 (continued)

Information Resources

- Better communication and information systems
- NYSPIN System for Police Departments that do not have it

Question 8:

What would you estimate the cost of these resources to be?

County Estimates

\$300,000/ year.	County wide volunteer incentives
\$450,000	Countywide public health staffing and funding, training, education, and improved communications and information systems
\$5-10 Million	Emergency Operations Center
\$10 million	County-wide communications upgrade
\$3.5 million	Equipment and planning; county wide
\$500,000	Planning and training staff; computers; communication protective equipment; generators
\$3,708,333	<i>Average of county estimates</i>

Local Municipality Estimates

\$55,000	Training
\$13,600	Equipment
\$50,000	Training and equipment
	Annual additional \$15,000
\$25-30,000	Communication equipment
\$100,000	Vehicles, protective equipment, mobile command
\$20-30,000	Communication equipment
\$7000	NYSPIN system for police department
\$100-125,000	Vehicles and personnel
\$30-60,000	Monitoring equipment for Weapons of Mass Destruction; Personal protective equipment
\$15-20,000	Decontamination equipment
\$30,000	Communication equipment, vehicle, personal protective equipment
\$64,000	One year salary benefits for firefighter first class
\$20,000	Communications and training
\$5000	Air monitoring equipment
\$8 million	To maintain current staffing (<i>not included in average; department total</i>)
\$38,140	<i>Average of local municipality estimates</i>

No estimate provided on several questionnaires

Question 9:

What role do you think the federal government should play in assisting local agencies with emergency preparedness?

Training

- Funds for training (7)
- Provide radiological training funding
- Mandate time off for volunteers from jobs for preparedness training

Personnel Resources

- Assist in volunteer recruitment and retention efforts
- Job protection for volunteers who take time off for training
- Provide tax credit incentives to volunteers (2)

Planning and Response Resources

- Provide additional funding to local first responders and agencies (8)
- Address multi-state issues
- Provide funding for emergency prevention, recovery; planning (2)
- Provide funding to counties
- Give technical support for radiological, biological and terrorist incidents
- Institute a regional approach to emergency first response resources
- Technical assistance (3)
- Empower states to assist local agencies; develop generic plan and then customize for each county
- Supply standardized guidelines and funding to implement
- Take lead role; work with State and local governments
- Assist with suggestions for coordination, joint procurement of necessary equipment, HAZMAT

Equipment and Facilities

- Provide/ fund communications infrastructure and needs (3)
- Provide equipment (2)
- Provide protective and military equipment with training
- Provide equipment and training to help with natural disasters and terrorist attacks
- Provide funding for firefighters, as the US Department of Justice does with funding for local law enforcement agencies
- Provide Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for Emergency Management facilities and equipment
- Increase funding and training opportunities through FEMA and SEMO
- Provide supplies (general)

Information Resources

- Improve information resources
- Educate communities on emerging emergency situations
- Provide access to bulletin and alerts
- Create a unified multi-layer government alert system
- Disease awareness in schools

